

1086. L. 23.

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TRUE NARRATIVE  
OF AN  
UNFORTUNATE ELOPEMENT,  
IN A  
SERIES OF LETTERS.

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By \* \* \* \* \* S—, Esq;

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*To beauty's fierce tyrannic sway,  
Most mankind their homage pay;  
But soon, alas! its power decays,  
A strong, but short-liv'd blaze:  
While Wit and Virtue will maintain,  
An uncontested lasting reign.*

12923

PRIOR.

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L O N D O N:  
Printed for W. HOLDSWORTH, No. 7, Red-Lion  
Court, Fleet-street. 1770.

THE NARRATIVE

OF THE

STORY OF

THE

WARRIORS

OF THE

WARRIORS

OF THE

WARRIORS

OF THE



## To the PUBLIC.

GENTLEMEN and LADIES,

**A**T the particular request of many of my friends and well-wishers, I have been induced to publish this little volume in justification of myself.

I doubt not, but the candour and indulgence of all the virtuous will be exerted in my favour; happily conscious of my own conduct. Confiding in this hope, and requesting their indulgence for the want of stile, I have the honour of being,

Gentlemen and Ladies,

Your most obedient,

Humble servant,

*London, Feb,*  
28, 1770.

.....S—.

# To the PUBLIC.

Gentlemen and Ladies,

At the particular request of many of my friends and well-wishers, I have been induced to publish this little volume in justification of myself.

I doubt not, but the candour and intelligence of all the virtuous will be exerted in my favour; and my friends of my own country, standing in this hope, and respecting their feelings for the want of this, I have the pleasure of being

Gentlemen and Ladies,

Your most obedient

Maria F. A.

London: Feb.  
28. 1770.

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## L E T T E R S, &c.

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*My dear Miss . . .*

YOU, as well as all the family, are, no doubt, surpris'd at my not appearing as usual. But you must not expect to see me any more. You may remember how often I said, seemingly in jest, that I would soon take a trip to Ireland, without leave, rather than fail. There was more meaning in that expression than you were aware of. Oh ! how I shall be pulled to pieces by the outrageously prudent of my own good-natured sex. But let them rail on till they are tired : There is not one of them, if they had my reason, but would do as I have done. Be-

A

lieve



lieve me, I sincerely regret the loss of your agreeable society. You have contributed to make many melancholy hours pass away pleasantly ; but I must now bid you a long farewell. Adieu ! my dear girl ! be assured I sincerely love and esteem you. But for fear of your mistaken zeal, would have informed you of my intention before I put it in execution. Once more, adieu ! Believe me your's sincerely.

*Directed to Miss . . . .*  
*Parliament-street.*

R. SIMES.

*No date, but received by Penny*

*Post, 13 October, 1769.*

S I R,

BEFORE this reaches you, you will be apprized of the step I have taken ; nor can you wonder at it, if you will give yourself time to reflect upon the many reasons you have given me to act as I have done. Ask your own heart, if you have behaved to me as a man of delicacy.

licacy and generosity ought to behave to a woman, at least his equal, and not void of common understanding. If that acquits you, I have done. That you never really loved me (except for your own sake) every action of your life has convinced me these seven years past. THAT I MARRIED YOU WITH A GREAT SHARE OF INDIFFERENCE (and though with a resolution to make a dutiful and respectful wife if you merited it) is the only action of my life that I cannot forgive myself for. But this is a subject not worth debating about at present. I have quitted you for ever, and desire not to acquit myself by reproaching you : You will have the consolation of being applauded by that multitude that will censure me, and I shall never take the pains to publish, to a world I despise, my reasons for acting as I have done : You have my consent to say what you please. I have only one request to make, by your permission ; which is, that you will send, if you think proper, my cloaths, books, writing-box, and what-

ever else of mine is useless to you, to W——d, to my mother's house, where they will be kept safe for me. Do not imagine, from what I have said, that she is privy to my leaving you ; I assure you she is not, nor does she expect me ; and the greatest regret I feel in committing this rash action (as she will term it) is, the pain I know it will give her. If you chuse to comply with my request, I shall be obliged to you ; and, wishing you that happiness in my absence which my presence could never afford you,

I remain,

To

Captain Simes.

S I R,

*This was received  
without date or place;  
and put into the pen-  
ny-post, near Milbank,  
the 13th of Oct. 1769.*

Your humble servant,

R. S I M E S.

*My dear Sister, London, Oct. 14, 1769.*

HEAD cannot dictate, or pen express, my present situation, being so much involved in passion and distress ;  
yet



yet I shall endeavour to write some lines without favour or affection to myself, lest you may have received a letter from your sister (my wife) representing me in a light I have neither merited or deserved; however, I scorn to retort upon her; conscious of my own innocence upon the whole, and that my own actions will fully suffice for any unjust or ungenerous reflections, should any be thrown out against me. But now follows what to me is equal to death. Your sister, on Thursday last, eloped from me.—Good God, who could have thought it! Suspicion was never foremost in my thoughts.

Yesterday I received a letter from her, without date or place; nor do I know where she is, where she went, or who she is with, or what she has done: The utmost search has been made, but all to no purpose. The latter part of her letter contains, viz. “I have only one request to make, with your permission; which is, that you will send, if you think proper, my cloaths, books, writing - box, and  
whatever

whatever else of mine is useless to you, to W——d, to my mother's house, where they will be safe for me. Do not imagine, from what I have said, that she is privy to my leaving you; I assure you she is not, nor does she expect me; *and the greatest regret I feel in committing this rash action* (as she will term it) is, the pain I know it will give her. If you chuse to comply with this request, I shall be obliged to you; and, wishing you that happiness in my absence which my presence could never afford you, —

I remain,

S I R,

Your humble servant,

R. S I M E S."

This imprudent and most unfortunate step she planned for some days, (as it now appears) and conveyed all her best cloaths away, unnoticed by any one in the house.

If she is gone to W——d, in that prudent stile which her good sense should have dictated to her so to do, I shall not  
be.

be wanting to add my little to make her retreat comfortable, though so undeservedly merited from me. I have reported she is gone home to see her friends, but have my doubts and fears, and which will only be cleared up by an answer from you ; which, by complying with, without a moment's delay, will be esteemed a lasting obligation: My comfort both here and hereafter, and the happiness of your family, depends upon this point.

I must conclude by wishing you, my mother, brother, and sister, all the satisfaction and happiness that this life can afford ; and be assured, no circumstance will alter the opinion I have of you and them ; resting myself assured, you will rather pity than condemn, when you hear both sides of the question. I have my faults, who are without them ?

I am, my dear sister,

Your most affectionate

Brother to command,

T. SIMES.

*Parliament-street.*

*Directed to Miss .....  
at W——.*

*My*



*My dear Sister,* London, Oct. 23, 1769.

SINCE my last I have been at several sea ports, in search of your sister (my wife) but could not get the least intelligence, though every necessary step was taken in order to procure it.

I have flattering hopes of her having taken a passage in the ship *Fanny*, for Dublin, and is to be taken on board at Gravesend on Wednesday, where I shall be ready to surprize her, and wish to God I may prove successful in the enterprize, provided she has preserved that virtue which a woman of her uncommon understanding ought, as no excuse can atone for so weighty a crime.

My peace of mind is no more ; nor can I have any comfort in this life. The shock is too great for an honest heart to support.

Mrs. . . . . who saw me at Portsmouth, perhaps, in her next letter, will describe my situation, which must suffice for the present.

I wait

I wait with the utmost impatience for a few lines from you, as I am told Mrs. Simes wrote a sheet well filled two days before her departure.

May she feel what I do, and she will be sensible how much I lov'd; and that she may see her errors, and her faults correct, is the hearty wish and desire of,

My dear sister,

Your very affectionate brother,  
Till death,

T. S I M E S.

P. S. In this evening's paper, and the most of them to-morrow, will appear, viz.

“ If the lady who was seen by her mother-in-law on Saturday morning last, in Catherine-street, in the Strand, will apply to her without loss of time, she will hear of something greatly to her advantage.

N. B. Every necessary precaution, which prudence could suggest, has been taken, at the several harbours, ports, and stages,

B

to

to prevent her from going, though she should appear in boy's cloaths, or otherwise.

*Directed to Miss . . . . .*  
*W——d.*

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*Honoured Mother, London, Oct. 25, 1769.*

I take for granted, sister Betty has communicated to you the purport of my letters, because the matter contained should not be kept a secret from so good, so amiable, and so affectionate a mother, however disagreeable the subject, or distressing the situation.

The circumstances attending her departure I shall neither disclose or discover, till I am truly sensible of the steps she may have taken ; for, at present, I remain as ignorant of them and her, as the child unborn. It is true she said in her letter to me (without date or place) that she was gone for W——d. God grant it, both for her peace of mind, and my own, for she has not a more sincere friend and well-wisher under  
the



the Heavens than me, her now unfortunate husband. *Unfortunate*, I say, because she has brought that distress upon me, which, I am afraid, neither time or place can restore : Yet I shall remain, if possible, in passive obedience, hoping she has preserved that virtue which will for ever give her comfort in the greatest distress.

To trouble you, Madam, with a detail of grievances, would be unjust, nay ungenerous, because I feel for your feelings, and could wish it were in my power to communicate the agreeable.

I have been at Portsmouth, Gravesend, and the Lord knows where, but all to no purpose, for she has neither been seen or heard of, for certain, since the 12th instant, the day of her departure.

I shall conclude by observing, if she is with you, I am happy ; if otherways, miserable : But at the same time do declare, I will pursue, to the farthest part of the world, any man, however high in rank, or great in fortune, if they have injured my peace of mind. But, for the

present, I shall say no more upon the subject, expecting every hour to be fully informed of her destiny ; and that it may prove more acceptable than I have reason to expect, is my earnest desire ; and that the whole of this imprudent step may amount to no more than the going without my knowledge ; which, that it may, God grant, for her own sake, and my satisfaction ; and that you, and all your family, may enjoy all the comforts of this life, is the hearty wish of,

Honoured Madam,

Your most dutiful son

For ever,

*Directed to Mrs. ....*

*W——d.*

T. SIMES.

*W——d, Oct. 23, 1769.*

*My dear Brother,*

WITH a heavy, dejected heart I take up my pen to acknowledge the receipt of a letter that has filled me, and all your friends, with more sorrow and affliction than words can paint, or I describe ;

describe ; and though I had not been favoured with your's, I was determined to have wrote this post, to have endeavoured to convince my dear brother, how sincerely and justly we sympathize in all his troubles. Wou'd to Heaven that, by writing, I could alleviate ; but, alas ! I have not any thing that, I fear, can afford you any ray of comfort, destitute, as we are, of every shadow of hope.

You judge right in supposing I had a letter from my unhappy mistaken sister. But what a letter ! I can scarcely bring myself to mention it. I should have described it word for word, as it was wrote, were I mistress of it : But my poor mother, as soon as we had read it, in the midst of her distraction and anger, put it into the fire.

However, as I remember every particular, I shall repeat it almost as wrote. It contained only a few lines ; and was, as my unkind sister said, to take a last and long farewell of me, as she would be far distant from all her friends before this letter could



could reach me ; that she was going to a part of the world where we should neither see nor hear from her more ; but does not give the least hint of the place she is going to, or of those that are to accompany her to her distant abode.

Judge, dear brother, what a shock must such a letter give us, who adored her. She also mentions (pardon me for repeating it) that you had used her extremely ill ; and concludes by begging, if you should send her cloaths, that they may be taken care of till she should demand them.

I believe I have been very particular as to every circumstance of that fatal letter. It was dated London, 12th of October, and was the only one I received from her for several months.

And am I deprived of that dear sister for ever, whose correspondence afforded me so much happiness ! Ah ! my dear brother, could you be a witness of the heart-felt agonies of us all, particularly of my poor dear unhappy mother, whose  
life

life was centered in her darling name-sake, who esteemed her nothing but perfection, and often cast her eyes to Heaven as an acknowledgement of its goodness in having blessed her in a husband so every way worthy ; and so far from condemning you, that she feels, if possible, more for you, than she does for herself, and would have wrote to have assured you of it, were she able to hold a pen, or capable of dictating a letter, in her present distressing situation.

Whatever may have happened to have given rise to this fatal step in my cruel sister, surely nothing should have prevailed upon her to banish herself from those that love her ; or, for one moment, induce her to quit a tender affectionate husband. Had she come here, as we might have hoped, nothing should have been wanting on our parts to have made her return to a right way of thinking in regard to her duty. But where she is, God only knows : All we have now to do is, to arm ourselves with patience and resignation,

nation to the will of Him who disposes all things, and incessantly to pray to the Almighty to grant her grace to resist all temptations, and to inspire her with a just and virtuous way of thinking, and to return her to her unhappy friends much more worthy than her resolutions were when she quitted them.

Adieu ! my dear brother ! May Heaven grant you peace and comfort, is the sincere wish of my poor mother, brother, sister, and aunt, and all friends ; but of none more than

Your truly affectionate,  
 Unhappy, and  
 To Disconsolate sister,  
*Captain Simes.* E. . . . .

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*London, Nov. 5, 1769.*

*My dear Sister,*

I was favoured with your's in due course, and am well convinced of your tender participation of my distress ; and highly concerned am I, that nothing has



has as yet transpired that can afford my dear sister the least comfort, satisfaction, and intelligence.

I am truly sensible of my mother's good and tender disposition, as also that the relieving of the distressed is the peculiar pleasure of a noble mind, and therefore can form no stronger idea of her afflictions than *by the feelings of my own*: for whether I look backward or forward, my mind is filled with prospects of confusion, destruction, and despair, because the happiness which I had been so long procuring, alas! is now no more. I treated her with candour, and ever paid her that attention which I thought a dutiful and virtuous wife intitled to, I therefore cannot censure myself for any one act that should have lessened her duty and affection toward me. I often said to myself, with pleasure easier to be imagined than expressed, can there be a purer one than that of possessing the heart of so beauteous and so virtuous a woman,

C

whom

whom I thought all perfection, and from blemish free: Ah! my dear sister, this touches my very heart, because I still feel I have compassion for her.

Though chastity in a woman, is considered in the same light as courage is in a soldier; the want of either soon makes them neglected, despised, and abused, and ever after held contemptible in the eye of the world; therefore modesty is as certain a companion to chastity, as honour is to the courage of a soldier. I had the vanity to think I was loved and beloved, and therefore gave her every indulgence in my power, with the hope that it might always have brought with it the blessings of tranquillity; but as Dryden observes, "How void of reason are our hopes and fears." The disagreeable and most deplorable situation which that most accomplished and beautiful creature must soon be involved in, cannot but affect the hardest of hearts.

most

But

But, my dear sister, what is to be done, to remedy this great evil, and rescue her from perdition? Oh! for a head to accomplish this great and valuable work; to save her from wretchedness, and, if possible, to preserve her virtue.

She accuses me of treating her extremely ill in your letter; to which I shall make a very small reply, viz. that she has judged of appearances without charity; and, with less justice than a woman of her sense ought to have done, has censured a character that was ever virtuous to her.

The fondness I have so frequently manifested for her, to your knowledge, will, with a generous mind, suffice for any unjust attacks that may be made upon my reputation, conduct, or character; but now, my dear sister, let me, above all, implore and beseech you, to conduct yourself with patience and temperance, and firmly to resolve to pass thro' this transitory life with as much tranquility and content as it is capable of allowing: all



which I submit to my dear sister's good sense and judgment, and believe me,

Dear sister,

I shall for ever remain,

Your affectionate brother,

T. SIMES.

P. S. My duty to my good and disconsolate mother, and love to brother and sister J—, and compliments to all friends. Ah! I feel it from the bottom of my heart.

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*Copy of a Note received at Portsmouth.*

“ Mr. M. . . . . compliments to Capt. Simes, he has this morning seen young Mr. P. . . . ., who took his bill to send to his father, who, he said, he hoped would pay it.

“ He knows nothing of his brother, but apprehends they may be together; but has no other reason for this, than what you said to him yesterday.”

19<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1769.

*Copy*

*Copy of an Advertisement, as it appeared in  
a Paper.*

“ WHEREAS a half-pay Lieut. on the Irish establishment, held several conversations with me at Forest’s coffee-house, and in particular, on the 12th of last month; having behaved unbecoming the character of an officer and a gentleman, I therefore take this method of informing him, that soon will be published his name, &c. and hand-bills dispersed to all parts of the world.

..... S—, Capt. Q. R. R. of F—. *Parliament street, Nov. 7, 1769.*

N. B. He is supposed to be pushing for the India service.

Remarks. Before I put it to press, I read it to Capt. R . . . . ., and told him who it was addressed to, who replied much like an officer and a gentleman, that he had not used him well; and upon talking (at Mr. M . . . . .’s house, Charing-cross) of the transaction of the books, he said,

said, he had also gone away without paying his f...r. Expressing and feeling much concern at my unhappy situation, declaring upon his honour, he did not know of his going, or where he was, I asked him if he thought they were now in town, he supposed not.

\* \* Surely the half-pay Lieutenant cannot suppose, that the Captain would tamely have submitted to what I have before recited, was he not too sensible of the justness of my cause.

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W—d, Oct. 1769.

Dear Brother,

THE surprise and grief that your melancholy letter threw us all into, is not to be expressed: my mother is almost distracted at the unhappy fate of her once darling daughter, and my wife never ceased crying and lamenting her the whole night; she can neither think or talk of any thing else. Believe me, dear brother, we all most sincerely join in pitying



tying your distressed situation, and at the same time intreat you, if ever you should happen to meet with that monster, who has seduced her from you, that you will not put your own life in danger, in hopes of depriving him of his. As to her coming to Ireland, there is not the least room to imagine that she has made that her place of refuge, as she is too well known to think of ever appearing in it, after the step she has taken.

My mother and I, upon the first perusal of your letter, thought to have gone off for Dublin immediately: but we have since considered it would be to no purpose; for even, in case she is come there; you know she might easily conceal herself in so large a place,; but we rather imagine she is gone to France. I am sorry you were not more particular in your account of her late conduct; for, I imagine, by her complaining in her extraordinary letter to Miss . . . ., and hinting as if you had used her ill, that it was occasioned by something improper in her  
behaviour

behaviour of late. I beg you will be more full in your next; and if you can get any intelligence of her, let me know, and be assured, that there is nothing in my power, or that of her relations here, that we would not do to draw her from the villain, whoever he is that has seduced her. I am,

With great truth,

Dear Brother,

Most sincerely

And affectionately your's,

H. J—s.

W—d, Oct. 22, 1769.

Dear Brother,

I little thought the first time I should ever write to you, would be on so melancholy and distressing an occasion. Good God! what is become of the poor unhappy fugitive? whom, of all women, I should never have suspected for an action like this. I always knew that her greatest foible was a desire of admiration, which

which is indeed a great one in a married woman; but at the same time, I thought her pride would have been sufficient to keep her, not only within the bounds of decency, but also of prudence and discretion. But to my inexpressible sorrow, I now find, by her own letter to Miss . . . , that she is regardless of the censure of the world.

I request you will be as full as possible in your next, and let me know who the person is that you suspect to be the partner of her flight, and what grounds you have for such suspicion. I thought the one, whom I imagine you mean, was long since married, and quitted the army; *how then did they happen to meet after so long an absence.* It was an unfortunate day that she ever went to that cursed London: Had she staid here this would never have happened; but she is in a place where actions of this kind are looked upon as trifles: but surely no one, who has the least sense of virtue or honour, can look upon it in that light. Assure yourself,

D

that



that all her friends here are in the greatest affliction on her account. Her death would have been nothing in comparison to this: as to my poor distracted mother, I am much afraid, that it will contribute to shorten her days. All we can do is to pray sincerely to the Almighty, that he will be pleased, in his mercy and goodness, to reform her, and to send you comfort, and grant you patience in this your distressed situation, which is the constant prayers of her, who is, with the greatest sincerity,

Dear brother,  
Your very affectionate,  
Though afflicted sister,  
B. C. S.

P. S. My mother, aunt, and Betty, desire their love.

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*My dear brother and sister,*

I had not the honour of receiving your letters, (dated the 22d of October) till the 16th instant, as they were directed

directed to the coffee-house, where, till within these few days, I have not resorted for some time. I take it for granted, sister B—— has shewn you my letter, (dated the 25th of last month) to her brother, and for some particulars, I must beg leave to refer you to that; for tho' I now sit down to write, I have very little to say, and what I have, can neither prove pleasing or acceptable, as it is only to confirm, that my former reflections were solid, and that from such a variety of circumstances which I could draw in point of view. The affair is now no longer a matter of doubt; but, as I have said, I scorn to retort upon her, I shall as strictly adhere to it as I possibly can: for, as I valued her (as I thought) for her sense, innocence, modesty, and unsullied chastity, I did not imagine her capable of making a proficiency in the art of intrigue. Indeed, had I been a person, who was profaned and villified by vicious passions, I might have expected to have been plunged into the greatest distress; but alas! who

could have thought she was not possessed of all those virtues which Heaven could give her ; for, let it be observed, how often she had drawn to me the picture of a certain unfortunate beauty, (who was the darling of her relations) and mentioned, by her imprudence, what wretchedness she had brought upon herself and family.

But ah ! my dear brother and sister, what has she brought ! but that vociferation, which neither time, place, or distance, can silence.

Every necessary step has been taken to prevent their embarking for India, (and since my last, has been published these advertisements at the bottom) but as yet to no effect. A person has just now given me a description of them both, and says, he will produce her, and perhaps him, this night ; and farther tells me, the gentleman is desperate, and always has his sword drawn : if so, we shall soon end it, and though he is a false friend, yet, as he is prepared, I will give him that opportunity.



tunity. Trusting to the justness of my cause, is the best banner I can fight under, therefore, it is equal in my choice, whether to live or die.

Often since her departure, I had that flattering hope which now presents itself, and as often have I been disappointed with the expectation in view.

The grief and concern which this must give, I am truly sensible of ; but death before dishonour. I scarce know what I am writing, so shall conclude, that may God grant you both all the pleasures and satisfactions this life can afford, and to free you all from uneasy solicitude, and the many disagreeable crosses which sometimes arise.

Farewell, my tears will not permit me to add more, than to convince you both, that wherever I am,

I am always

Your faithful and affectionate brother,

To  
Mr. and Mrs. J.  
W——d.

Till death,

T. SIMES,

Copy.

(Copy.)

This is to inform the lady who left her lodgings on the 12th of last month, that a letter has been received in consequence of the one she wrote, which mentions, "That her mother is filled with more sorrow and affliction, than words can paint, or they describe; and that it will most certainly be the cause of her death, if she does not return immediately to her, or her friends in London. This will be the last address upon this occasion, except one, that must soon follow, describing her person, &c. &c. which will be sent with remarks, to all parts of the world.

N. B. The other advertisement is mentioned before.

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W——d, Nov. 25, 1769.

I THANK my dear brother for his favour which I received; that proof of regard which will ever be estimable in my eyes; and I should have acknowledged

knowledged it sooner, had I not vainly  
 flattered myself with hopes of having some-  
 thing pleasing to communicate. But alas, I  
 have not, nor ever shall, I fear: if you who  
 are on the spot can have no intelligence  
 of my unhappy sister, what can we ex-  
 pect to hear; she doubtless will not com-  
 municate her intentions to us; sensible  
 how greatly all her family here must con-  
 demn a conduct so very repugnant to her  
 duty, and that prudence and discretion,  
 which, till now, were her characteristicks.  
 Ah! my dear brother, that thought alone  
 is sufficient to make us miserable. Had  
 she been a silly, thoughtless, giddy crea-  
 ture, the shock would not have been alto-  
 gether so great; but blest as she was, with  
 an uncommon share of understanding, and  
 every other perfection which adorns a wo-  
 man, or renders her an ornament to So-  
 ciety; that she, such as I have described,  
 should so far forget herself, her friends,  
 and all the world, is too much to think  
 of: I cannot bear the reflection!

Time, which lessens all other sorrow,  
 serves only to augment our's; oh! my  
 dear



dear brother, truly pitiable as your situation is, you cannot fail having an adequate idea of ours. As for my poor mother, I dread the consequences of this fatal affair; her altered looks bespeak her distress more feelingly than the most eloquent pen could draw; she desires me to acknowledge, in her name, the receipt of your kind and affectionate letter, and relies on your goodness to pardon her silence, for some time at least, till her ideas are more collected than they are at present; but my dear brother need not, I hope, be assured that nothing can afford us a greater consolation, in this our melancholy situation, or contribute more to my poor mother's peace of mind, than to hear from him that he is well, and as much resigned to his hard fate as one in such trying circumstances can possibly be.

I am sensible that the gracious God will never forsake the distressed; and the more we suffer here, the happier we shall be hereafter; when we shall not depend on the smiles and frowns of a deceitful, fickle

fickle world: such reflections as these, my dear brother, are the only comfort of my life. What but religion can minister consolation to the unhappy, and without this precious balm, what wretched beings should we be! Though I dread an account worse already than you have given, yet I beg we may hear from you as soon as possible: suspense is, of all things, the most dreadful. My brother Mr. J. is vastly uneasy at not hearing from you, in answer to his letter so long since: he fears you never receiving it, is the cause of your silence, and requests the pleasure of hearing from you when convenient,

P. S. My mother, brother, sister, and aunt, join me in love and best wishes to you; and believe me, my dearest brother, with the most unalterable sincerity,

Your truly affectionate friend  
And sister,

E. F.

E

My

*My dear Sister,*

Your most kind, polite, and sensible letter, I had the favour of receiving, and am highly concerned that my spirits will not enable me to answer it line by line; but such being my situation, I flatter myself, that so good and so generous a heart as your's will need no apology.

That I have never, through the whole of my correspondence, retorted upon her. I hope you will do me that justice. Nay, that I have not even complied even with your earnest request to relate the conduct of that character. Ask it not, for you never will have it from me. Don't accuse me of cruelty; indeed I am not guilty of it: for be assured, my dear sister, could I afford you the least shadow or prospect of comfort, joy would begin my letter.

Prepare yourself, and God grant you peace and happiness! The following letter went from me yesterday to Mr. H—.

*To*



*To Mr. H——.*

Dear Sir,

Upon the most mature consideration, I find it out of my power to dine to day or to-morrow with you, having employed a proctor upon the unhappy occasion ; therefore cannot with propriety (which I flatter myself the whole of my conduct will be productive of) take the least step without his advice. On Friday morning I am to see him ; and as soon as I eat my dinner on that day, I shall wait on you, if I am not as——d before that time. I have my doubts, but not my fears ; death could never come more welcome. With respect to the unfortunate character in question, I shall express myself in as few words as possible. First premising, that she has not only hurt my reputation and health, but run me so much in debt by the pursuit of a f—— and v—— friend, that every moment occurs to me the prospect of a gaol. This is my situation ; this is my hope and comfort for ever being virtuous to her. But,

E 2

Sir,

Sir, shall draw the purport of my intention into one point of view, by way of answering to what you communicated yesterday. That I have sufficient matter for a divorce, I think beyond a doubt; but the supporting of evidence for three terms, if they have no other business in town, will indeed be a most weighty expence. But as I have embarked in it, I will pursue it, tho' I sell my commission. There is one way of shortening the expence and time, her furnishing me with matter sufficient. This is my last request, and what I think I am intitled to expect from her; if she does not comply with it, she will be the greatest loser, for the law will not allow her a single sixpence. This is not the only disagreeable thing that will attend her non-compliance in this my most reasonable request.

She, poor deluded thing, little thinks what I have in my power, and yet have not exerted that power, though I went to S. . . — — —, with a resolution so to do. I shall say no more: on Friday we meet,

meet; and as you will see the unhappy object, you may read this to her, and inform, that last night I received a letter from her sister J—, (as I do almost from some of them every post) and that all the family are involved in the greatest distress, and her mother miserable, indeed.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient,

T. S.

P. S. I am very sure she could not escape from G— Britain, as descriptions, &c. are at every sea-port, and a farther detainer.

The gentleman before-mentioned, has just left me, read what he called an anonymous letter; but surely he knows the hand-writing, and from the name I mentioned between us, is clear: it was a sheet well filled. The purport, he *loved her for eleven years*, and wants to mitigate affairs; that he would take flight to some distant place; and that she ought to be permitted to go to her relations unmolested,



lested, &c. and that she would live in retirement; and that sooner than she should be insulted, he would die by her, &c. I have promised to dine with the gentleman to-morrow, and, nevertheless, I am aware of the snake in the grass. As I will not come into any terms, I think myself doubly armed, first with a good conscience, and next with undaunted courage. I have nothing to fear, though a certain o——— to wish for; if that presents itself, the night may end this matter. Your advice is just and laudable; but ah! my dear sister, you do not, nor cannot feel the agonies I endure. Whatever may be the event of to-morrow, I shall not put pen to paper: this is leaving you in suspense, but the nature of the affair is so nice and delicate as to require it, and you must rest for two or three posts; till when, pass the remainder of the days in peace and quietness, which is the ultimate object to be aimed at here below; and that you may, may God grant, not only to you, but to my good and much afflicted mother,

mother, brother, and sister, and believe  
me,

My dear sister,

Your very true,

And affectionate brother,

To command, till death,

T. S I M E S.

P. S. The attack was wilfully deliberate on his side; on mine, unprovoked and unexpected.

*(Remarks.)*

About two days before the anonymous letter, (as it is called) Mr. H. had a private conference with me on the subject; the purport, wishing matters could be settled to my satisfaction. I replied then, as I did at all our meetings, that I could never forgive the man (his name had been mentioned.) Mr. H—— never once contradicted the name; and from this passage, which will follow in the next letter, he must have known who it was from, viz. “ Neither dated it or signed it; believe

believe you know who it was from as well as if I had."

*Copy of a Letter left with Mr. H——.*

" I GAVE this to a man I found going to London, who does not know me, nor any thing about me, and told him it required no answer.

" I take the liberty of troubling you upon the most material and critical part of my life ; a situation, however giddy and unthinking I may have been in other particulars, I hoped never to have plunged myself, or indeed to have been capable of shaking, much less overturning one of the most salutary and best adapted laws for the good of society. I need not particularize, as I make no doubt of your knowing what I mean. If any ill consequences attending it, only concerned myself, I should be very easy ; but when I consider how many are involved in it, people, tho' I am under no obligation to, yet who never did me any injury ; *there* it hurts me, and really affects all of man and Christian  
in



me. I will not endeavour at an extenuation of my fault : I have no excuse that would go down with cool and dispassionate reason, *yet there are anecdotes relative to us both*, that might plead something in our favour ; but I wont tire your patience now. Suffice it to say, my eyes are open, and I see too clearly the wrong I have done, particularly to her, who never deserved it from mortal ; and to *another*, who, I am too well convinced, has suffered greatly by this affair ; as who would not, at the loss of so inestimable a jewel ; yet, I thank God, in regard to *him*, I broke no second engagement of friendship or hospitality. But so conscious am I of the injury I have done him, that there is not, nor ever can be any reparation in my power, that I most willingly would not make. I never was inclined to injure him, or had any intention of doing him the least hurt, particularly as a man, BUT I WITH CONFUSION OWN WHAT I DID, I WOULD HAVE DONE, WAS THE FIRST MAN IN THE WORLD IN HIS PLACE. Nevertheless,

F

less,

less, he suffers as much as if my intention was to hurt him alone; that distresses me, and that really makes me unhappy, and would make me wish for any thing that I think can be any reparation. What is past, however fatal, cannot be recalled; and, as we are made to believe, our most heinous sins will be forgiven us by an all-gracious God, I will endeavour to merit, at least, pity, by a sincere and hearty contrition for my error: to shew which, I am ready, though not without the severest struggle that ever was made, and willing that she should go home to her friends; and also, I will give the strongest assurance, that I will never see *her* by design, while his wife, and this in the most serious way that can be devised. In return, he, I shall hope, will give it under his hand, that he will not, by ill usage, confinement, or any other means, prevent her going home to her friends; nor will he afterwards claim her with any of the above intents or purposes, so long as she behaves with propriety; which, if this takes place, will

will be as long as she *lives*. This she does not yet know of; yet, so assured am I, of every good disposition of her mind, except where an unhappy passion blinded her: that I will engage she will accede to it. Dont' imagine this the result of an alteration in my regard for her; no, it is the greatest sacrifice I can make. I have SINCERELY LOVED HER THESE ELEVEN YEARS; and now, if possible, my passion is stronger; that I cannot be blamed for. That is a natural impulse of the mind, not in the power of mortal to subdue; yet, though I could die for her, I can and will give her up; so much I owe to propriety; so much I owe to the alleviation, as much as possible, of those concerned in this unhappy transaction, and that I will pay, though at the expence of my life: for my own part, I shall transport myself to some distant clime, where I hope to forget, and be forgot.

Make what use you please of this, but don't give it out of your possession. I have neither dated it or signed it, *but be-*



*lieve you know who it is from as well as if I had.*

I beg an answer as soon as possible, and inclose you a direction, which I depend on your veracity, not mentioning to any mortal, tho' it is many miles from where I am. I know your truth, therefore will say no more : I am on the rack till I hear from you. Adieu. God bless you and your's ; and may you never know the unhappy state of mind I this moment feel.

*My much honoured mother,*

LEST my silence may cause uneasiness, I sat down to write, tho' nothing material has transpired since my last. What I permitted to be communicated to the characters ; as yet no answer. The gentleman declares, by his word and honour, that he does not know where they are, but apprehends France, yet is not certain. I have, in consequence, caused circular letters to be dispatched to all parts ; and, as soon as I get any intelligence, I shall pursue my intention. I am sensible, madam, you, my friends, and  
well-

well-wishers, will condemn this conduct ; but I hope, my sufferings and feelings, will, with your good and generous heart, pardon and forgive, let whatever may be the event of this my determined resolution.

Speak of me as one, whoever had foremost in his thoughts, his duty to you as a son, and the affectionate and most sincere love of a brother to your children. As a husband to that most beautiful, accomplished, and unfortunate woman, I thank my God, I performed every obligation which the Almighty had bound us together for ; and though unasked, and, I am sure, unsuspected from the unhappy woman, I do most solemnly declare, that from the very hour of my marriage, to the hour of her departure, I was, on my part, ever virtuous and loving to her. The moment I receive any intelligence, I shall write. Soon it must arrive.

I so sensibly feel for you and your family, that it must be something more than this most dreadful disaster, that can make me cease to be your most dutiful son, and  
 affec-

affectionate brother of your's, to my last moments.

To Mrs. F—,  
W——d.

T. SIMES.

Compliments of the season to you and your good family.

(Copy.)

S I R,

You will be pleased to inform the bearer, if Lieut. ———, now on half-pay, has wrote you any answer in consequence of my letter after our conversation, upon reading the anonymous one to me, which you gave me a copy of; and also by what means you received that draught of 20l. which you gave Mr. M——, at Charing-cross, and which draught came back protested; tho' it was to have paid for those books, which he obtained, by my recommendation, as he says.

Thursday, Feb. 8,

I am, Sir,

1770.

To

Your most obedient  
humble servant,

at his house at

T. SIMES.

S I R,



SIR,

No answer was sent me in consequence  
of OUR LAST CONVERSATION.

The 20l. bill was dropped at my house,  
as was the anonymous letter.

Thursday, 8 Feb.

I am, Sir,

1770.

Directed to

Capt. Simes.

Your very humble and

Obedient servant,

— — —.

*Copy of a Letter to the above Gentleman,  
the date forgot ; nor does there appear at  
the bottom any name or signature, but  
perhaps their might.*

Dear Sir,

YOUR message I did not  
receive till last night, or I should immedi-  
ately have wrote, to inform, it is entirely  
out of my power to be with you to-  
day. I am to dine with a friend in the  
city, and then proceed to my proctor.  
Not hearing from you for two days, I  
took it for granted, nothing more would  
transpire. I intended this night, to have  
advertised

advertised the characters and names at full length, and then produced them to Sir —. As letters have, some time ago passed, and directions given to a Captain of an India ship.

You know what I have said, and may depend upon my honour. I shall not go out till half past two o'clock; or fix any time to-morrow, and I will be punctual.

*Parliament-Street.  
Pardon imperfec-  
tions.*

Your friend

And well-wisher,

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*My dear Sister,*

I HOPE my dear sister, J—, received my favour in due course, wrote a few days ago. The interview I had with the gentleman concerning your poor deluded sister, turned out nothing; the t—— mentioned were of such a nature, that had I complied with them, dishonour and reproach must have been the consequences attending so rash and so imprudent a step.

Just

Just now I received a message to dine with the gentleman above alluded to, upon the subject of this matter. The conducting of which is of a most delicate nature. Lieut. —, is appointed only a Lieutenant in the I . . . . —, and from this wonderful change, I suppose all his money is gone.

What must be her fate, God above only knows! that I love and feel for her, I do to the bottom of my heart; and the struggle is between my head and my heart.

If any thing material passes to-morrow, I shall write the post following. Pardon haste, and the shortness of the epistle, as I am now engaged in company.

Pray, how is my dear mother, brother, aunt —, B—, and S—? I hope they are getting the better of their distressed situation. My duty, &c. attend them; and believe, my dear sister, the time will come, when I may have an opportunity of shewing how much

To  
Miss E—,  
at W—d.

I am

Your affectionate

Brother at command,

T. SIMES.

G

By



By the letter that follows, the reader will be pleased to observe, it is in consequence of my letter to Mr. H—, wherein I say, “on Friday we meet, and as you will see the unhappy object, you may read this to her.” In justice to that gentleman, I must beg leave to say, I don’t believe he ever saw her since her elopement, but in course forwarded it.

( Copy )

“S I R, *Dublin, 23 Jan. 1770.*

A S you might reasonably have expected an answer to a letter you wrote for my perusal some time ago, I think it necessary to inform you, that my reason for not taking notice of it sooner was, because I determined, for many reasons, to be out of the kingdom before I acquainted you with my resolutions relative to what you propose. I suppose, from the reasons you assign for asking my concurrence to procure a divorce, your only motive must be a desire of being freed from an engagement that must be unhappy to you in all its consequences; and which,  
to

to attempt the continuance *now*, would necessarily be the source of much mutual misery, and is what I can never think of. I am very ready to grant what you desire, on the following conditions: First, that you will, on no account whatever, attempt to disturb my present resolution, relative to my future life, nor in any respect interfere with regard to me, by any authority that you may imagine to derive from law, &c. but to the true intent and meaning of the words, in every circumstance, to be the sole mistress of my actions; and this I do not think unreasonable of me to ask, or you to grant, as you say all you want is a divorce, which, with my consent, would be immediately obtained, and then your claim to me subsides. One condition only more; as I think I should be blamed by every body, *even by Capt. Simes himself*, to sacrifice the supposed partner of my late misfortune, in order to obtain terms for myself, without giving him time toward off the blow in the best manner he could. You must

also engage not to prosecute, or in any respect to inconvenience, by any means whatever, the person so circumstanced, for the space of six months after the giving such proof as is required. The obligation on your part, to be as strong as council can draw it: if you consent to this, I will give you a sufficient proof to obtain a divorce as soon as you please; if not, you may rely upon it, that I have taken such precautions, as will render it *now* impossible for you to gain it in any other manner. The same reasons that prevented me writing to you sooner, also deterred me from giving you the meeting you SEEMED desirous of, as I thought, after what had happened, it would be more prudent in me to decline letting you know any thing relative to me, till I was on this side of the water. I own myself surprized at the reason you gave for desiring such a meeting, "that it was to have some doubts cleared up, which you entertained of my former conduct:" that you always entertained an indifferent opinion of me, I am  
 very



very well convinced of, as you never scrupled to tell me so; but I am also as certain, THAT YOU NEVER HAD ANY REASON TILL NOW, for your unjustifiable suspicions. I am very ready to give you the most solemn assurances of the innocence of my whole life and conduct, from the day I first saw you, till the day I left you. Any answer you think proper to make to this, please to direct to J—— K——, at St. Paul's Coffee-house, St. Paul's Church-yard, London, and MY FRIEND will take care to forward it to me as soon as possible.

*Directed to Captain  
Simes, at Mrs. Neale's,  
Parliament - Street,  
London.*

I am, Sir,  
Your most humble  
Servant,  
R. SIMES.

N. B. Received by Penny Post, February  
10, 1770.

(Copy.)

Madam,

I received yours', the deception of your being in Dublin will not pass, for the very writing was scarce dry when I perused it; besides, I am but too sensible of your being in town with half-pay Lieut.—  
and

and that the only view you both have, is to endeavour to amuse me for a few days, to get his appointment for I . . . , and then to take flight together: but surely, the C— of D—rs (however well recommended) will never permit S—e or Pl— a receptacle for such ch—rs.

The transaction of the b—s amounts to very little less than a —. He tells Mr. M— he was recommended by me, and leaves ~~me~~ a list of books to the amount of near 20l. but not being ready, he only obtained to the value of about 15l. desired them to be sent to his lodgings; and when they came for the p—t, they are informed he had packed them up, and gone away. Upon my looking over the list, I found every book but one, *were those which you always made choice of.* About seven weeks ago, I told his acquaintance Mr. — of this transaction, and my opinion upon it. The consequence of which was, Mr. H— gave Mr. M. a draught of Lieut.—, upon Dublin, for 20l. which draught, Mr. M— told me was protested.

So

So that this false ——— not only r—s me of that happiness which I had been many years procuring, but ——— to hurt my reputation and credit.

Surely, Madam, after what I have said, you cannot have so mean an opinion of me, as to suppose I could either tamely submit to such insults, or reconcile it to my conscience to pardon a person, which, for the sake of public example, I will push to the utmost extremity, BY A DUE COURSE OF LAW. Therefore, as I can never forget him, I will never forgive him.

Reflect, Madam, what he has done. Your mother, shocked and distracted to such a degree at so unexpected an event from her darling daughter, that it is imagined she cannot long hold out. Your sister B—— has never stirred out of her room. The rest of the family involved in the greatest distress.

So after the ——— has accomplished his accursed designs, under the mask of acquaintance, and committed a—— in a double capacity (having a wife) has the effrontery



effrontery to expect forgiveness by his anonymous letter, which I have a copy of. This he may be assured of, that neither time, distance, or place, shall prevent my putting in execution what I have before recited.

Was he appointed he could not escape, because I shall have every intelligence necessary, and the same directions sent to the captain of the ship as was before. Three of your acquaintance are to go soon to India, being appointed; Lieut. C—— of the Queen's, Captains H—— and H——.

Every intelligence has already been sent to India, lest you might have been gone at a time so many ships were going, though it is impossible, however disguised, even as a soldier or servant maid. Had you travelled from London, you would have been stopped on the road, from the directions and descriptions which are left at every town and sea port. Miss J—— saw you last week in the city; and Lieut. —— appeared on Friday last

last was se'nnight. I did not see him, but suppose he has received some notice concerning me from the ——— house, and will in two or three days hear more. You say, you sent your letter inclosed to a friend in London, with a request to have it delivered to me. I got it by the penny-post at my lodgings in Parliament-street; and as sure am I, that you will read this, this very night. This stratagem will not take, nor any future plan'd one. The affair is too public, and both of you so much condemned, that neither of you will be countenanced, or much longer concealed. I am told you are with child.

*Parliament-street,  
Feb. 11, 1770.  
The seal upon your  
letter was a pre-  
sent to me; but as  
you thought proper  
to keep it, why re-  
mind me of it?*

I am,

Madam,

Your most —

—————

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THE letter directed to  
J—— K——, (agreeable to Mrs. Simes's  
directions) I wrote on Sunday morning  
H in

in the Coffee-room, and after remaining there all the morning, I left it, and requested of the gentleman, and all belonging to the house, to pay all attention as to the description of the person who should call for it, telling the gentleman what it was upon. He very readily offered me his kind assistance, and spoke directly to all his servants; as I did again before my departure: as follows is what the servant declares, viz. That on Tuesday night, the 13th instant, at about a quarter past eleven o'clock, a person, who appears to be near Capt. S——'s size, came dressed in a blue coat, sword, and, they are almost sure, had a cockade, looked sprightly, and was marked with the small-pox. He, and another in light coloured cloaths, took coach, and drove first to Lombard-street, and then to a tavern near Lincoln's-Inn-Gate. The description and dress appears to be pretty exact.

☞ The gentleman who brought me two c . . . . . was also dressed in light-coloured cloaths. I must beg leave to observe



observe, that could I not, consistent with my honour, and the duty I owe to public society, (after a time of above four months) have accepted of one from him who had so much injured me, or I should not have given him the trouble of displaying his courage by sending a second. I am highly concerned to be under the very disagreeable necessity of saying my courage has been tried in d——g, and was in one affair twice wounded; yet as I never mean to give an affront to any gentleman, because I will never take one, I must beg leave further to observe, and appeal to Colonel . . . . . with what propriety and resolution I behaved on an affair which happened in the public gardens at Dublin. I must also hope Capt. . . . . who I believe is now in town, will be pleased to do me the justice to relate my conduct, upon an altercation which passed between him and me when quartered at Dublin.

Capt. S . . . . flatters himself, as he had the honour of serving in the same corps with those gentlemen, they will pardon

H 2

his

his taking this liberty without having first asked their consents. But the want of time, and a most wicked insinuation having been thrown out by one man *only* (he means not a gentleman) hopes it will carry a sufficient weight of apology, for mentioning two so very respectable characters upon such an occasion.

Major Rogers, and Lieutenant Colvill, at different times, were so very obliging as to accompany me in my pursuit. To them I must beg leave to refer, as to conduct and intention.

Had this man appeared, or sent me a message, before the 15th or 16th instant, I should most readily and willingly have embraced the opportunity; but not at a time when his retreat was cut off, and every transaction of it to appear to public view.

(*Copy.*)

(*Middlesex to wit.*)

Capt. Thomas Simes maketh oath,  
that he received this piece of paper in a  
writing-

writing-box which belongs to Mrs. Rosalinda Simes, and came from Gibraltar about ten weeks ago.

*Sworn before me,* THO. SIMES.  
*Feb. 13, 1770,* W. KELINGE.

(Copy.)

“ MADAM,

I TAKE this opportunity of assuring you that no one sympathized more sincerely than I did, in the loss you lately sustained, and which, with a great deal of reason, gave you so much trouble; as, believe me, any thing that concerns you must affect me; but at the same time it opened a dawn of hope to my extreme passion for you, and made my ravished imagination form such ideas of happiness with you, that the very thoughts are too much to bear in suspense. If you think there's any thing in this improper at this time, I hope you will make the proper allowances, and impute it to the most respectful and sincere passion that ever entered



tered the heart of man. You may now, without offending against the strictest rules of the most exact caution, give me one line, to let me know what I may expect. I could wait with the most infinite pleasure an age, if I had, in the mean time, a prospect, or rather an assurance, of my being at last happy; for happy, by all that is sacred, I cannot be without you. And if a life spent in a constant study to please, and endeavouring to make every thing as easy and happy to you as my poor abilities will allow me; I say, if a constant and sincere passion for you will be any suitable return for your condescension (I hope I may say it) you may depend on my doing every thing for that purpose. As I can mean nothing but what tends to my own happiness, and my endeavours to make you so, you certainly will, I hope, be ingenuous and sincere in your answer to me, for one, I hope, you won't be so cruel as to refuse me. I know very well I have not a fortune adequate to the smallest degree of your merits,

rits, but, with a little common prudence and œconomy, sufficient to keep us independent. Once more I hope you won't refuse me a couple of lines, that I may know what I may hope or fear ; as suspense, in a thing that concerns one so nearly, is the most terrible of all passions. I am obliged to leave this to-morrow, or next day at farthest, so will walk before your door about ten o'clock to-night ; where, for God's sake, let me have even one line to ease the mind of him, who is, with the greatest truth and sincerity,

Dear Madam,

Your's as ever,

*Wednesday Morn.*

And for ever,

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N. B. His name is wrote at full length after the line at bottom, viz. " And for " ever."

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WITH a heavy heart, and trembling hand, I now sit down to answer my dear unhappy brother's melancholy

choly letter, which has plunged us all in more distress than my pen is able to describe, both on your account, and that of our lost undone sister, since we are now put out of doubt that such she is. Alas ! how little did I think she was capable of committing such an action ? or where shall I find words to express my grief and sorrow for your miserable situation and dreadful resolution ? Believe me, my dear brother, that the thoughts of your meeting that villain, notwithstanding the justice of your cause, has added more trouble than you can conceive, or I express ; and all your friends here most earnestly join with me in beseeching you not to expose your own life, which is truly dear to us all, for one who has rendered herself so unworthy of you, and more especially, as there are other methods which may be taken to punish him in this life, without hazarding your own, and which would be far worse than depriving him of it. For certainly, there is no person but  
would



would prefer death before perpetual imprisonment, when accompanied with the torments of a guilty conscience ; and I flatter myself, you will the sooner come into this our request, if you will but give yourself one hour's reflection ; for do but consider, dear brother, that though you would deprive him of his life, it will neither restore your peace of mind, or her lost innocence. On the contrary, it will rather be an addition to your trouble IN YOUR COOLER MOMENTS, to think, that you have plunged a soul head-long to perdition ; and in case, (tho' Heaven forbid) that you should fall instead of him, reflect only one moment, what must then be the dreadful situation of your poor afflicted MOTHER and SISTER, whose lives, I am informed, are wrapped up in your's. Believe me, I sincerely sympathise with them on this melancholy occasion, and hope you will pardon the liberty I take, in presuming to give you advice, when I assure you, that it proceeds from the sincere affection and esteem I have for you, and

I

the

the ardent desire I have of seeing your peace of mind once more, in some measure, restored; which I am convinced never can be, in case you deprive him (tho' he has injured you in so tender a point) of his life. I have nothing more to add, but to assure you of the sincere love and good wishes of all your friends here, and none more than her, who is with great truth

Your very affectionate sister,

— —

P. S. Mr. J—— presents his love to you, and would have wrote himself, but as I write this post, he thought it better to defer it till the next.

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*Copy of an Advertisement.*

To the P U B L I C.

“LEST any evil and designing persons should endeavour to reflect upon my character or conduct, (which has ever stood

un-

unimpeached) I think it necessary to premise, that I have sufficient matter to prove the person, who eloped with my wife, on the 12th of October last, (a half-pay Lieutenant) and that I shall take every satisfaction by a due course of law; therefore, by advice of friends, and upon the most mature consideration, I shall not accept of any challenge from the person who has robbed me of that happiness which I had been for many years procuring. He threatens to insult me, (I suppose from the difficulties he is now under) therefore, I shall defend myself, as an injured and insulted person.

*Parliament-street,*

*Feb. 17.*

THOMAS SIMES.

N. B. I acquainted a gentleman, who came to me, if the person was innocent, would make an affidavit of it, I should do every thing that was proper upon the occasion with the directors."



*Copy of an Advertisement.*

To the P U B L I C.

“ ANY REFLECTIONS WHICH HALF-PAY LIEUT. W. P— may throw out against my courage or conduct, will neither answer his intention or purpose: he being surrounded with such a choice of difficulties, that he knows not which of them to encounter first.

“ Disappointed in his expectations for I . . . ., (by a just attention which was paid to some original papers and letters) he cannot any longer remain concealed; and endeavours to plunge himself head-long to perdition, to avail himself of a prosecution, and the torments of a guilty c—e; what, says the world, could induce Capt. Simes, so much injured, to furnish such a w——h with so complete a triumph? Had I met, or could have found him in a pursuit of four months, or before I applied to a Proctor, I then might, too wantonly have accepted of one, and with that

that intention, took Major —, upon my first excursion, we having procured an exact description of them, but we could not overtake them.

“All the gentlemen that I have spoke to upon the affair, say, did I go and fight this man, it would be derogatory from the character of an officer and a gentleman.

“Where is the gentleman that shall presume to charge me with the crime of cowardice? or dare say, I have not the resolution and spirit becoming Thomas Simes, Captain.”

N. B. All letters and papers that have passed from all the characters concerned, are now at press, and in a few days will be published; till then, the public are requested to suspend their opinions.

A very extraordinary passage that passed between the Captain and a half-pay Lieutenant, at Forrest's coffee-house, the 11th day of October last, the morning before a certain lady eloped, is as follows.

“The

“ The Captain went to read the papers as usual, and whenever they met, had a conversation together. The H. P. Lieutenant was at breakfast, and all of a sudden, he complained of his stomach being out of order; then called the waiter to bring his *case*; (I think that was the name he gave it) he brought it, which contained four or six bottles, with some liquids; and after having put a little out of one of them, gave it back again; then said, (calling me by my name) what a fool was the man that I bought this of, taking it out of his pocket, and shewing me a very neat little case, containing four or six bottles, to think I wanted such a one as this *in place of that*. And further said, he should go that night, or next day, to Southampton, *and wished he had not bought it*, (meaning the little case) because they would think him too jemmy, or words to that effect. Upon which I replied, it was very neat and pretty, and asked him what it cost. He replied, fourteen shillings; I then said, that Mrs. . . . . wanted

ed



ed one, and would give him any thing for it in return: he then put it into his pocket, and did not part with it. I asked him if he was not appointed for the I . . . . : —, he said no, it was all over. I then replied, I suppose your friend will get you some civil employment.

When I returned to my lodgings, I mentioned the whole affair to Mrs. . . . ., who appeared not a little surprised at it. Two or three days after her elopement, (at a time I was not quite certain who was the partner of her flight) I mentioned this to the lady at whose house I lodged, who then told me, Mrs. . . . . having broke her smelling bottle, had borrowed her's, but returned it back again the night before her elopement.

\* \* \* The reader will be pleased to observe, that this bottle was returned on the night of the day that I had the subject of conversation with the Lieut. and of the day that I acquainted Mrs. . . . . of it.

A cir-

A circumstance occurs, which may not be improper at this time to communicate; that I have been married about seven years, and that before I married, my wife told me she refused to marry the half-pay Lieutenant. This declaration corresponds with the following words made use of (in what they want to stile an anonymous letter) viz. *I have sincerely loved her these eleven years.*

Their meetings, till the day of her departure, were sometimes in Westminster-abbey, (several have seen them) and have been seen together at the play; tho' neither of the parties ever told me, they had seen or spoke to each other in London. His b——r visited me; but his conversations and mine were always at the coffee-house.

I had several conversations with a gentleman in W——r. In the course of which, not long since, he told me, "that the b—— said, that there was many circumstances to be pleaded in favour of them both."

Miss

Miss —, some time ago, went and informed my sister, at my mother's apartments, that — —, the H. P. Lieut. whom she was acquainted with, and mentioned his name, and Mrs. — —, were both in town: but the reason she would not inform me was, she being afraid of — — —; Miss — also said, was Capt. — possessed of the knowledge she has, it would be easy to procure a d—. She was asked why; she answered, by the servants where they lodged, and was going to tell every thing, but was persuaded to the contrary by Mrs. —, and for the above reason.

My mother, a few days after Mrs. —'s elopement, was crossing Catherine-street, near the Strand, and, unsuspected, came at once upon her, (who was disguised by dress) upon which Mrs. — cried out, Good God! who could have thought she could have known me, and went away in great confusion, attended by a man, of whom she gives the following description. His size about mine, well made, and had



on a cockade, a blue coat with a red cape, and thinks it was a scarlet waistcoat, laced with gold.

My mother pursued them as far as Bagnigge-wells, they constantly turning their heads about. Her strength at last failing, they went off; she offered money to a man to watch them, but he refused.

Mrs. ———, some time before her elopement, desired a little girl (who lives in the house I lodged in) to go and take a letter, which she gave, and a shilling, saying, “give it to any chairman, except the one Captain S—— employs.” It was directed to an officer in Spring Gardens; and upon my asking him, ten or eleven weeks ago, if it was for such a person? he said he was almost sure that was the name. It now appears, that before her elopement, she bought a quantity of articles, and were such as bespoke a long sea-voyage.

---

*Dear Sir,*

FROM that friendship which has ever subsisted, I flatter myself, nay *af-*  
that

sure it, from one gentleman to another, that if any reflections should have been thrown out by a half-pay Lieutenant against my character (as I have some reason to suspect, from our friendly connection, was, in particular, insinuated at you) you will ~~not~~ act with that generosity which I have a right to expect as an injured character; I mean what passed last night at your club, and his V—— D——s.

I shall never make any other use of this, or your honesty, but what is becoming the character of an officer and a gentleman.

*Salopian coffee-house,  
past seven o'clock.  
N. B. which was Sa-  
turday the 24th inst.  
Directed to an offi-  
cer.*

I am,  
Dear Sir,  
Your's sincerely,  
.....S——.

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*Dear Sir,*

I AM extremely concerned I was so unfortunate as not to be at home, when you did me the honour of calling yesterday; and, as I am under the neces-

sity of attending this day in the city, must desire your answer may be sent to my lodgings, respecting the purport of my request.

It being a matter of the utmost moment, I flatter myself of your complying without delay.

And am,

*Monday morning,  
eight o'clock.*

Dear Sir,

Your's sincerely,

.....S—.

The officer was so obliging as to wait upon me, and what he communicated, was of so little consequence, as not to require my farther attention.

The reader will be pleased to observe, that my wife el——d on the 12th of October last, at about twelve o'clock in the forenoon, and that he did not appear after that morning, as usual, at the Salopian, or Forrest's coffee-houses, till towards the 15th, 16th, or 17th Feb. which was much about the time he received his a——r from a C——n ——— .....

Every



\* \* \* Every search had been made for near four months, in order to have found both, or either of those characters; but it was all to no purpose. The lady as yet is not found, (her letters are only a deception) tho' information was given of their going by the name of B.....y, and that they first lodged in Dean-street, then Heming's-row, and then back again. The intelligence was received too late to answer the purpose.

T——n of the D—— passage, leading to my mother's ap——, S——t—— H——, is of so b—— a nature, "that I do not know an epithet b——d enough to give it."

I cannot pass by in silence a conduct so very inconsistent, both as to h——r and c——, when a man knew I was a ——  
 ..... ——— ..... ——— ..—t ———  
 ..... ———. However, he may hear more on that subject from another quarter.

I appeal to Lieut. William Colvil, (a gentleman in every sense) who was walking with me without his sword on Saturday

day last, the 24th inst. in the Strand, near Somerset-house, between the hours of two and three o'clock,

\* \* Whether upon a certain view in front, and the person advancing and passing near me, if my looks and speech did not denote the character I have ever happily supported; tho' a certain man (from all his schemes being frustrated) has thought proper to throw out his envenomed darts of illiberal abuse.

I have walked in company with Lieut. Colvil several times, to the Temple-coffee-house, (even the Grecian) and supped more than once at the Salopian, the Park, and many other public places, and have often breakfasted at St. Paul's coffee-house since the letter, marked J. K. was taken up. I should have appeared more frequent, but having had no assistance in compiling this book, it employed my time and attention a good deal at home.

N. B. I did not give directions to my attorney to proceed till the 27th Feb. at night,

night, three days after the 24th, but had applied to a proctor before.

I flatter myself the public will pardon my recapitulating, and also for omitting a principal letter, and other material occurrences, as it would be furnishing his enemy with matter of intelligence.

“Where is the gentleman that shall presume to charge me with the crime of cowardice? or dare say, I have not the resolution and spirit becoming T— S—, Captain.”

I expect nothing more or less, than that justice, which I have naturally a claim to by a due course of law, and which I shall push with the utmost extremity, in spite of all menaces.

*A small Extract from the Vicar of Wakefield. A Tale, much esteemed for its propriety and entertaining subjects.*

“GUILT and Shame, says allegory, were at first companions, and in the beginning



ginning of their journey, inseparably kept together. But their union was soon found to be disagreeable and inconvenient to both: Guilt gave Shame frequent uneasiness, and Shame often betrayed the secret conspiracies of Guilt. After long disagreement, they at length consented to part for ever. Guilt boldly walked forward alone, to over-take Fate that went before, in the shape of an executioner: but Shame, being naturally timorous, returned back to keep company with Virtue, which, in the beginning of their journey, they had left behind. Thus, my children, after men have travelled through a few stages in vice, Shame forsakes them, and returns back to wait upon a few Virtues they have still remaining."

It may not be unnecessary to inform the public, of my sole motive for committing so much of this unfortunate affair as now appears to view.

On

On the 10th instant in the morning, I was told, " That in the London-Evening Post, would appear a very long paper against me, and my name put at full length. In consequence of which, I began to form this work, that both sides of the question might appear, and sent directly an advertisement for the same paper; lest those w—— infin——s might have been communicated, in order to pre——c a J——y against my cause.

\* \* \* What a deplorable state must the man be in, who could suppose a J——y would be br——d by any party-faction or writing.

" A man that hath no virtue in himself, envieth it in others,  
 " Sell not virtue for wealth,"

I now pledge my word and honour,  
 (neither of which would I hazard, but  
 upon the surest foundation) that every ar-

L

tle

ticle which I have related, from my own knowledge, IS TRUE, and I am ready to confirm it upon oath; and farther, from what I know of the whole transaction, I do truly and sincerely believe every other matter herein contained, are facts.

.....—S—.

Having for the present quitted this small and true narrative, shall beg leave to observe, that I have paid very little attention to a very wordy and feint advertisement, which appeared in an evening paper, as I do not intend to draw my pen, as he then stiled it, "My favourite Weapon," against an J——L——l. But as he, oh man! will soon be convinced, that facts are obstinate things, he will hear again from my attorney, after the first trial, upon a second, and perhaps a third B—— of the L——s.

"What think you, is there no punishment for a calumny like this, that strikes  
at



at life as well as reputation? you shall be forced to prove your charge."

\* \* Honour . . . H— . . . e— nor  
C . . . —enough from your disappoint-  
ments, to st—d the r—e of a g—c—,  
therefore, I suppose, would wish to pre-  
f—r D . . . h to those st—gs which you  
S . . . — predetermined to disc—y.

*F I N I S.*

ERRATA, Page 21, line 6, from the bottom,  
instead of Capt. R. read P. 1. 22, from the  
top, read his T. instead of F.

MUSEVM  
BRITAN  
NICVM

